Task Force for Foodgrain Surplus States

4308. SHRI C. O. POULOSE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to constitute a task force to look into various problems posed for foodgrains surplus States such as Punjab, due to implementation of the WTO regime ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the task force would be set-up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Increasing the MSP for rice

4309. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are demands for increasing Minimum Support Price for rice;

(b) if so, the agreement therefor; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Government fixes each season the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy and not for rice. The MSP fixed for paddy (common) and paddy (grade A) varieties is Rs. 510 per quintal and Rs. 540 per quintal respectively for the crop year 2000-2001. The MSP of paddy for the 2001-2002 crop is at present under consideration of the Government and views of the State Governments in this regard will be duly kept in view, while fixing the MSP.

Additional Investment in Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure

4310. SHRI C. O. POULOSE :
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the working group on Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, constituted by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, has suggested mobilization of additional investment totaling Rs. 268,000 crores in the marketing infrastructure, during the next ten years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) An Expert Committee on Strengtheing and Developing of Agricultural Marketing constituted by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, has estimated investment requirement in agricultural marketing infrastructure to the tune of Rs. 2,68,742 crores.

(b) The details of the estimated investment requirement are given in the *Statement enclosed.*

Statement

Details of Infrastructure Development in Agricultural Marketing

Rs. in crores

Sl. No.	Infrastructure Item	Investment Required
1.	Rural Roads	74000
2.	Market Yard Development	6026
3.	Development of Fruit and Vegetable Markets	970
4.	Rural Periodic Markets	2146
5.	Storage	5400
6.	Cold Storages	27000
7.	Reefer Vans	600
8.	Cleaning and Grading	2000
9.	Export Oriented Agri-Zones	600
10.	Value Addition and Processing	150000
	TOTAL	**268742**